United States Embassy Dakar, Senegal Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Update August 1, 2014

This is an update to the notice of April 4, 2014 regarding the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa.

To date there have been no confirmed cases of EVD in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau. On July 31, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Travel Notice that warns against nonessential travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. For more information, please see the CDC website.

Due to the increasing spread of the virus, the Peace Corps has decided to temporarily remove its volunteers from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

Regional airlines ASKY and Arik Air have suspended flights to and from Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Monrovia, Liberia. Emirates Airlines will also be suspending its service to Conakry, Guinea until further notice. Air travelers should reconfirm flight arrangements with their respective carriers.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that EVD is a rare but deadly disease. The risk of contamination is low, but someone could be infected if he or she comes into contact with an ill person's blood or bodily fluids, sick wildlife, or infected bush meat.

To obtain Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel notices, call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website at http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel. For more information on Ebola hemorrhagic fever, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau enroll in the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

In addition, if you wish to participate in the optional SMS/text messaging program to receive security notices via text message, please send an email to DakarACS@state.gov for additional information.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u>, where you can find current <u>Travel Warnings</u>, <u>Travel Alerts</u>, and the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Senegal and neighboring countries</u>. For additional information, refer to the <u>Traveler's Checklist</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday

through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on $\underline{\text{Twitter}}$ and $\underline{\text{Facebook}}$ to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +221 33 879 4444.